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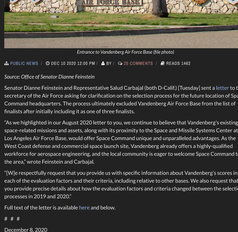
LEGISLATORS ASK WHY VANDENBERG WAS EXCLUDED FROM SPACE COMMAND HQ



Entrance to Vandenberg Air Force Base [file photo]

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Source: Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Salud Carbajal (both D-Calif.) [Tuesday] sent a letter to the secretary of the Air Force asking for clarification on the selection process for the future location of Space Command headquarters. The process ultimately excluded Vandenberg Air Force Base from the list of finalists after initially including it as one of three finalists.

"As we highlighted in our August 2020 letter to you, we continue to believe that Vandenberg's existing space-related missions and assets, along with its proximity to the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, would offer Space Command unique and unparalleled advantages. As the West Coast defense and commercial space launch site, Vandenberg already offers a highly-qualified workforce for aerospace engineering, and the local community is eager to welcome Space Command to the area," wrote Feinstein and Carbajal.

"[W]e respectfully request that you provide us with specific information about Vandenberg's scores in each of the evaluation factors and their criteria, including relative to other bases. We also request that you provide precise details about how the evaluation factors and criteria changed between the selection processes in 2019 and 2020."

Full text of the letter is available here and below.

# # #

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Barbara M. Barrett
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670
Dear Secretary Barrett:

We write today to express our disappointment that Vandenberg Air Force Base was not selected as the permanent location of U.S. Space Command Headquarters. We ask that you provide additional information related to the selection metrics used to determine the finalists.

As we highlighted in our August 2020 letter to you, we continue to believe that Vandenberg's existing space-related missions and assets, along with its proximity to the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, would offer Space Command unique and unparalleled advantages. As the West Coast defense and commercial space launch site, Vandenberg already offers a highly-qualified workforce for aerospace engineering, and the local community is eager to welcome Space Command to the area. Further, Vandenberg supports space situational awareness through the Combined Space Operations Center and serves a critical role in homeland defense through its Missile Defense Agency capabilities.

In 2019, the Air Force selected Vandenberg as one of three finalist locations, in addition to sites in Alabama and Colorado. We understand that the governors of Texas and Florida protested the Air Force's decision because they claimed the selection process was unfair, prompting a new evaluation this year of bases nationwide. During that evaluation, Vandenberg was cut from the list of six finalist locations; but sites in Alabama and Colorado remain in contention while bases in Texas and Florida were added to the list, as well as bases in New Mexico and Nebraska.

Given this shift in the Air Force's evaluation and selection process for Space Command Headquarters, we respectfully request that you provide us with specific information about Vandenberg's scores in each of the evaluation factors and their criteria, including relative to other bases. We also request that you provide precise details about how the evaluation factors and criteria changed between the selection processes in 2019 and 2020. We appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

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CHILLINGBILLIN DEC 10, 2020 09:17 PM

What people need more than ever right now is multi billion dollar defense projects to fight enemies that don't exist and yet another boondoggle that's great! Go Emperor Jesus Trump our savior is makin 'Merica gooder again with the Space Force. Didn't lose, fake news. He just didn't like California for being communist Muslims from Kenya like Obama. Make sure you buy Cocoa Puffs to collect all the latest Qanon clues and decoder rings. To infinity and beyond!

GENERALTREE DEC 10, 2020 10:08 PM

^^^He's right you know

FORREALNEWS DEC 10, 2020 09:10 PM

Glad we aren't! Not interested in being a nuclear target. Aside from the potential nuclear target issues would could have already.

GENERALTREE DEC 10, 2020 08:42 PM

Defund Space Force.

WINTER DEC 10, 2020 08:23 PM

I would like to see it here...the pride of having it.
Grew up watching rockets in Cape Canaveral...
Was thrilled to see the recent launches here from my backyard...
Don't know the details you have all mentioned...solid points...cost of living, housing, etc...
We really have much better weather for launches, compared to Florida, or Texas.

RADICINFIDEL DEC 10, 2020 07:04 PM

Agree with VCR - It's pretty darn simple. CA has a really high cost of living and isn't business friendly at all. I think it's good vandenberg didn't get it personally. I don't even know why we (the US) should have such a thing in the first place. Can anyone explain why we need it?

ICEBERG DEC 10, 2020 05:13 PM

I'm not against the idea of a "space force."
But for the money, DHS, and/or Fed-Ex can deliver (properly shielded) delayed timed detonation nuclear weapons to nearly any point in the world, at far less costs and far greater accuracy.
Just saying....

YACHT ROCKED DEC 10, 2020 07:34 PM

I've been wondering why so many Acme Heating & Air trucks have been servicing the boxes on skyscraper roofs in major US cities, and why those HVAC units need a dish antenna...

RIG DEC 10, 2020 04:28 PM

It is always interesting to see the complaints from those who loath government programs when a military initiative is denied them. Don't want money from socialized government programs such as jobs in the public sector or building infrastructure but can't resist the lure of military parades and bravado. The idea that we need a "Space Force" is a caricature of what this country could do with such money.

GCHEADLEY DEC 10, 2020 04:24 PM

Space is for Deadheads.

LCP112223 DEC 10, 2020 02:04 PM

Judging by the comments, because California is full of hateful people.

ALEXBLUE DEC 10, 2020 08:24 PM

You're here.

A-1607243749 DEC 10, 2020 02:01 PM

Because Space Force is the big baby's baby, and big baby hates California

ALWAYS RUNNING DEC 10, 2020 01:43 PM

My guess is Vandenberg And Lompoc aren't prepared for 1,400 troops and civilian workers, plus their families in a short period of time. They have a larger city, hiking trails and larger homes with privacy for top military ranks

GENERALTREE DEC 10, 2020 12:36 PM

Space Force needs to be reorganized under the Air Force, like any logical, critically thinking President would have done in the first place. As to why Vandenberg isn't under consideration for hosting - my guess is California has too much windmill cancer and dead burning trees.

A-1607161619 DEC 10, 2020 07:11 PM

The cost of living in Lompoc is more reasonable than a lot of California but that would change if it was awarded. A old hotel in the area of vandenberg village is going under a major remodel. Perhaps counting on space force going there

A-1607161614 DEC 10, 2020 07:11 PM

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TONKERS DEC 10, 2020 07:11 PM

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CHEMICALSUPERFREAK DEC 10, 2020 05:51 PM

PIT: Totally agree. Real estate and the cost of living are too prohibitive in California. To be competitive and make the best use of the their budget, they'll have to locate the command elsewhere.
2:03 PM: Space truly is the final frontier. Sounds like you'd like to see the US fall behind, while China takes over.

VOICE OF REASON DEC 10, 2020 03:19 PM

to the anonymous poster on an anonymous message board @2:03. Six figures is hardly meagerly paid, and that's for only 9 months out of the year. See for yourself, https://transparentcalifornia.com. Teachers unions donated $19 MILLION to Gov. Newsom's gubernatorial campaign and have been reaping the benefits of that donation this entire pandemic while kids remain out of school, the safest place kids can be per the CDC. Let that sink in, the governor, paid for by the teachers unions, is preventing children for being in the safest place they can be. Crazy. Are our public schools, and the property tax dollars they consume, supposed educate our children or provide stable employment for adults! Our State's failed policies and very unfriendly business climate (even for the feds) are exactly why Vandenberg was cut. It's unfortunate for our community and consequence of an overregulated environment. disclaimer: I've loved every teacher my children have had and even teaching remotely is hard work for them, the teacher union issue is bigger than any individual teacher).

PITMIX DEC 10, 2020 02:39 PM

The real reason they are not in the final list is that housing prices are too expensive for air force salaries. If they put the base in Missouri then the staff can buy a big house and yard for 200K, and live the good (if sometimes hot and humid and then cold and snowy) life.

A-1607132773 DEC 10, 2020 02:03 PM

No, Space Force needs to be canceled altogether. Just one more huge waste of money that this country doesn't need. The military wastes and washes and wastes, yet meagerly paid teachers don't even have the funds to buy their students supplies. What a racket the military has become.

PITMIX DEC 10, 2020 12:31 PM

Do our politicians really need to spend time trying to get another useless government bureaucracy started by a village idiot? Isn't the Air Force already equipped to handle our space needs? If not, let's support the Space Force and get rid of the Air Force. Should be a zero sum game at this point given our huge national debt.

ZEROSHARK DEC 10, 2020 12:31 PM

BC the current admin are a bunch of fools and have issues with us as a state since we pushed back on them at every turn. soon that joke will be over though....

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